

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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----- 117849

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, TC

SUBJECT: NEW CHANCERY BUILDING

REF: ABU DHABI 0130 AND PREVIOUS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM CONNOLLY

1. BUREAU APPRECIATES CONSIDERABLE EFFORT EMBASSY HAS EXPENDED IN SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT UNSUITABLE CHANCERY SPACE. WHILE WE CONTINUE AGREE SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND, FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS DICTATE THAT ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES BE CONSIDERED. ALL DISCRETIONARY INCREASES AND A PORTION OF THE MANDATORY INCREASES WERE ELIMINATED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FY 1977 BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS WHICH REDUCES OUR FLEXIBILITY DRAMATICALLY. TEMPORARY SOLUTION OF SHORT-TERM LEASE AND RESULTANT RESTORATION AND MOVING AND PREPARATION COSTS BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY IN TERMS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS.

2. SINCE CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO REMAINING IN CURRENT LOCATION UNTIL SOMETHING SUITABLE FOR LONG-TERM

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CAN BE FOUND, WE MUST KNOW BEST DEAL YOU CAN GET BY

RENEWING CURRENT LEASE FOR A FURTHER TWO-YEAR PERIOD.
(HAS ANOTHER AMENDMENT TO S-483-FBO-001 BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
SINCE FEBRUARY 1974?)

3. HAS ANYTHING FURTHER DEVELOPED WITH THE DIPLOMATIC
ENCLAVE? WOULD EMBASSY CONSIDER APPROACHING SHAIKH ZAYID
TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF HIS BUILDING ON LOT SET ASIDE
FOR EMBASSY WITH BUILDING TO BE LEASED TO USG? PERHAPS
LOCAL INVESTOR COULD BE APPROACHED WITH SAME IDEA, BUT
WITH VARIOUS OPTIONS TO BUY AS TIME GOES ON.

4. ARE THERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO NEW DOWNTOWN OFFICE
SPACE IF LEASE/PURCHASE IDEA IS NOT VIABLE? LEASE
OF VILLA HAS BEEN EXCELLENT SOLUTION FOR DOHA. IS THERE
OTHER SPACE THAT WOULD REQUIRE MINIMUM INTERIOR WORK?

5. BUREAU REALIZES THIS DOES NOT ANSWER EMBASSY QUESTION
REGARDING PACHACHI SPACE. NEA'S DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
VIRGINIA SCHAFER, PLANS TRIP IN YOUR AREA IN MARCH
(DETAILS SUBJECT SEPTTEL) AND SHE WILL DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES
AT THAT TIME. SISCO

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